

**Epi Update for Friday, June 7, 2019**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **Rare but fatal complication of gonorrhea reported in Iowa**
- **Measles update**
- **Don't "rescue" wildlife babies**
- **In the news: This year the flu came in two waves. Here's why.**
- **In the news: As Americans shun the measles vaccine, the residents of Idjwi are dying to get it**
- **In the news: Is it time to treat sugar like smoking?**
- **Infographic: Protect all the skin you're in**

**Rare but fatal complication of gonorrhea reported in Iowa**

IDPH received a report of an individual who passed away as a result of disseminated gonococcal infection (DGI), a rare complication of gonorrhea in which the bacteria *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* spreads throughout the body. Although most individuals diagnosed with DGI fully recover after treatment with appropriate medication, the infection was fatal in this instance.

From 2015 to 2018, the number of reported gonorrhea diagnoses more than doubled in Iowa, reaching 4,839 cases in 2018. Greater access to healthcare and testing and/or increased transmission are possible explanations for this increase. This very rare, yet very tragic complication of gonorrhea emphasizes the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. Prompt treatment prevents adverse health outcomes and reduces transmission in our communities.

To view 2018 surveillance data for STDs in Iowa, visit [idph.iowa.gov/hivstdhep/std/resources](https://idph.iowa.gov/hivstdhep/std/resources).

**Measles update**

Over 1,000 measles cases have been reported in the U.S. so far this year, the highest number in over 25 years. A total of 26 states have reported at least one case during 2019, including Iowa, which has reported two cases.

So far this year, IDPH has worked with local public health partners and SHL to rule out measles infections in over 50 patients. Additionally, nine Iowans identified as being exposed to measles on airlines or in other states have been evaluated for evidence of immunity.

For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html).

**Don't "rescue" wildlife babies**

IDPH receives many calls from individuals concerned with potential rabies exposure as a result of "rescuing" baby animals from the wild. Although they are cute, caring for baby wild animals can be dangerous to both humans and animals. Many wildlife babies die soon after "rescue" from the stress of being handled, talked to, and placed into unfamiliar surroundings. Should it survive this trauma, they often succumb to starvation from improper nourishment, pneumonia or other human caused sicknesses.

Many mammals will hide their young during the day while the parent sleeps or looks for food, so don't assume a fawn or a nest full of baby cottontails or raccoons are orphaned. The best chance for fawns or baby ducks, raccoons, skunks and birds to survive is for them to be left alone, in the wild.

Wild animals can spread a variety of pathogens to humans directly, as well as potentially carrying insects that can spread disease to humans. Rabies can infect and potentially be spread by any mammal, and the disease is fatal to both animals and humans. Individuals who are exposed usually require post-exposure prophylaxis.

As always, IDPH is available for rabies consultation 24/7/365 - call 515-242-5935 during business hours or 515-323-4360 outside of business hours.

For more information from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, visit <https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/DNR-News-Releases/ArticleID/2426/Leave-wildlife-babies-where-they-belong-In-the-wild>

For rabies resources from IDPH, visit [idph.iowa.gov/rabies](http://idph.iowa.gov/rabies).

**In the news: This year the flu came in two waves. Here's why.**

[www.pbs.org/newshour/health/this-year-the-flu-came-in-two-waves-heres-why](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/this-year-the-flu-came-in-two-waves-heres-why)

**In the news: As Americans shun the measles vaccine, the residents of Idjwi are dying to get it**

[www.statnews.com/2019/06/06/as-americans-shun-the-measles-vaccine-the-residents-of-idjwi-are-dying-to-get-it/?utm\\_campaign=rss](http://www.statnews.com/2019/06/06/as-americans-shun-the-measles-vaccine-the-residents-of-idjwi-are-dying-to-get-it/?utm_campaign=rss)

**In the news: Is it time to treat sugar like smoking?**

[www.bbc.com/news/health-48499195](http://www.bbc.com/news/health-48499195)

**Infographic: Protect all the skin you're in**



To view in full size, visit [www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/badges.htm#ProtectSkin](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/badges.htm#ProtectSkin).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health  
800-362-2736